

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 53**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: June 27, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Runoff from the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers is flooding hundreds of acres of beets and alfalfa in the Buford-Trenton bottoms in Williams County. Farmers are unable to irrigate crops on dry land because such action would aggravate problems with crops that are under water. The Missouri River at Williston was at 25.40 feet, dropping one-half foot during the past 48 hours. Flood stage is 20 feet. The river is expected to slowly drop during the next four weeks.

Missouri River runoff into Lake Sakakawea has threatened Van Hook Park and mobile homes along the lake in Mountrail County. The reservoir level on June 27 was at 1,853.40 feet, a one-half foot increase during the past 48 hours. The reservoir rose to its highest level of 1,854.8 feet in 1975.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay remains at 1,442.3 feet MSL.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The city of Kingman, Arizona, has "adopted" the city of Pembina, establishing the "Relief Fund for North Dakota." The two cities are comparable in population. The relief committee is conducting a raffle and collecting money, toiletries and clothes.

Residents of Kingman are also hosting a potluck dinner benefit. The relief committee plans to present the supplies, along with a greeting card with donors' signatures, to Pembina residents.

Fenceposts and barbed wire, donated by Iowa farmers and businesses, were distributed to 21 North Dakota farmers and ranchers on June 26, the N.D. Department of Agriculture has reported. The items were donated through the Iowa Governor's Office and the Iowa Farm Service Agency. The effort was coordinated through the Agriculture Disaster Response Center with assistance from Farmers Livestock Exchange in Bismarck and the Help Your Farm Neighbor Relief Fund.

American Red Cross (ARC) disaster relief operations have moved from temporary quarters to the ARC Red River Chapter in East Grand Forks. Flood victims needing assistance should contact the ARC at (800) 272-2684. Hours of operations are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Messages can be left after 5:00 p.m., and an ARC worker will return the call.

Volunteers in Mountrail Park have donated labor, sandbags and plastic to efforts to protect Van Hook Park from a rising Lake Sakakawea.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The deadline to register for disaster assistance has been extended a second time to August 6 for North Dakota individuals and business owners who suffered losses during the winter storm and spring flood. Individuals and business owners should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Teleregistration Center at (800) 462-9029.

The N.D. Commissioner of Agriculture has announced that North Dakota livestock producers who suffered losses as a result of severe winter weather and spring flooding may be compensated under the Livestock Indemnity Program. A total of \$50 million will be available nationwide under the program. Applications will be accepted at local Farm Service Agency offices from June 30 to July 25.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will discuss recent water regulation plans for the Upper Missouri River System, including Garrison Dam, during a public meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. June 30, at the Bismarck Radisson Inn.

The Ward County Emergency Manager has released 2,000 sandbags to officials in Mountrail County, where they will be used to protect a public park from a rising Lake Sakakawea. Earlier this week, 1,000 sandbags were sent from Ward County to Mountrail County to protect a mobile home park.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Devils Lake will close July 1. DRCs located in Grand Forks and Fargo will remain open until further notice.

State and federal disaster workers will open an information center during the Pembina County Fair, which is scheduled for July 10-13.

To date, Public Assistance staff has determined that costs of eligible damages total more

than \$28.3 million for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

To date, Job Service North Dakota has paid more than \$3 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and has approved 5,397 applications from self-employed persons, farmers, migrant workers and farm workers.

Nearly 35,120 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 22,903 have received more than \$44.1 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

SBA has approved more than \$127.5 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 9,897 loan applications, 5,619 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 64 percent were to home owners for real estate and personal property losses and 36 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved more than \$4.3 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,216.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>  
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>  
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>  
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>  
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>  
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbnk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director